



SHROPSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD Report

Meeting Date	16 th November 2023			
Title of report	Air Quality Update –November 23			
This report is for (You will have been advised which applies)	Discussion and agreement of recommendations	Approval of recommendations (With discussion by exception)	Information only (No recommendations)	X
Reporting Officer & email	Toby Pierce – Public Protection Officer (Professional) Environmental Protection, Health, Wellbeing and Prevention Directorate environmental.protection@shropshire.gov.uk			
Which Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities does this report address? Please tick all that apply	Children & Young People		Joined up working	X
	Mental Health		Improving Population Health	X
	Healthy Weight & Physical Activity		Working with and building strong and vibrant communities	
	Workforce		Reduce inequalities (see below)	
What inequalities does this report address?	N/A			

Report content - Please expand content under these headings or attach your report ensuring the three headings are included.

Air Quality Update – November 2023

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1. Executive Summary

Shropshire Council's Environmental Protection team is continuing to ensure air quality improvements through our statutory Local Air Quality Management work; through informing and advising strategy and policy developments, and by consultation on relevant development and planning applications. Shropshire Council have commissioned external specialist consultancy Bureau Veritas to review Air Quality Action Plans (previously referred to as the 2022 Air Quality Action Plan Review Project) for both air quality management areas to determine and outline how pollution exceedances in these areas will be resolved. The report provides an update on each work area. It is expected that the Council's 2023 Annual Status Report shall be publicly available shortly.

2. Recommendations

(Not required for 'information only' reports)

3. Report

Shropshire Council has a statutory duty to monitor for and identify areas breaching UK guideline emission levels, designated as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and where these are identified, must develop specific air quality action plans (AQAPs) to reduce pollution in these areas.

Shropshire has two remaining AQMA's, designated for exceedances of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) concentration guidelines at key traffic junctions in Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth town centres.

Environmental Protection's strategic work continues with the input of air quality advice and expertise into the development of the Local Transport Plan (LTP4), and to the development of the Shrewsbury Movement and Public Realm Strategy by the Shrewsbury Big Town Plan Partnership - of which Shropshire Council is a key partner. It is anticipated that both plan/strategies have a high-likelihood of reducing concentrations within AQMA's and the wider county, if designed and implemented appropriately.

Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) Review project

The review of the air quality action plans (AQAPs) has been outsourced to a specialist consultancy – Bureau Veritas. Works to review both Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth are currently at the intervention and options appraisal stage.

A number of co-aligned projects have been identified in each AQMA and work is progressing to ensure quantifiable air quality improvements result from these, and to ensure that these are accounted for within the revised AQAPs. Due to the number of these measures that are currently in-development there has been some added complications and delays in collating necessary details and data so that predicted air quality improvements can be modelled and quantified as required by the relevant guidance.

In Shrewsbury No.3 AQMA, interlinked projects are entering a key scoping and design phases, these include highway alterations in the key NO₂ hotspot within the AQMA on the Castle Foregate/Chester Street ('Railway Bridge') Gyratory and; the 'Smithfield Riverside' redevelopment. Both projects have secured funding from the Government's Levelling Up (Round 2) Funding and are therefore under tight timescale restrictions to implement works and utilise this funding.

In Bridgnorth, work is ongoing to secure reductions in NO₂ as part of the High Street regeneration project which has received funding from Shropshire Council. Likewise further works are being considered in line with the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. The Environmental Protection team are continuing to work at a strategic level to ensure air quality interventions can be enacted using alternative means such as Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding.

Planning

The Environmental Protection team are continuing to screen and provide consultation on relevant planning applications to ensure air quality improvements across both the wider authority area and within/surrounding the AQMAs.

2023 Annual Status Report (ASR) and delayed reporting

Work to produce the Council's 2023 Annual Status Report has been delayed due to staffing and resource pressure, though it is anticipated to be finalised and published shortly.

In August 2022, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) published the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) Statutory Policy Guidance 2022 and introduced a new warning process for overdue AQAPs which came into effect on 30 June 2023.

Shropshire Council have received two warning letters from DEFRA, relating to both the delayed 2023 Annual Status Report, and to the delayed review of the air quality action plans (AQAPs) which were last reviewed in 2008. Work is therefore being expedited to finalise all reporting and to keep DEFRA informed of the ongoing/developing progress detailed in the report above.

Further information updates will be provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board at future meetings.

Risk assessment and opportunities appraisal (NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)	N/A
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Financial implications (Any financial implications of note)	None within this information only update.
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Climate Change Appraisal as applicable	N/A
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Where else has the paper been presented?	System Partnership Boards	N/A
	Voluntary Sector	N/A
	Other	N/A

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Previous Air Quality Updates available at: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=217>.

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Portfolio holders can be found [here](#) or your organisational lead e.g., Exec lead or Non-Exec/Clinical Lead

Chris Schofield - Portfolio Holder - Planning and Regulatory Services

Appendices
(Please include as appropriate)